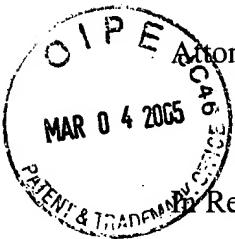


03-07-05

RCE  
JMW

Attorney Docket No. DDR-5455-Div (1417Y P 649)

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re U.S. Patent Application of )  
 BILSTAD, Arnold C., BUCHANAN, Bradley H., )  
 MARTTILA, Alan W. and WOODWORTH, Archie) )  
 Application No. 09/970,580 ) Group Art Unit: 1744  
 Confirmation No. 2598 )  
 Filing Date: October 4, 2001 ) Examiner: Krisanne Marie Jastrzab  
 For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR )  
 MANIPULATING PRE-STERILIZED )  
 COMPONENTS IN AN ACTIVE STERILE )  
 FIELD )

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL**

MAIL STOP RCE  
 Commissioner For Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Submitted herewith is an Amendment and Reply to December 7, 2004 Office Action  
 Filed as Submission In Accordance With 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. A check in the amount of \$790.00  
 is enclosed for the RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e).

No additional claim fees are required as shown below:

	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Small Entity		Other Than A Small Entity	
				Rate	Additional Fee	Rate	Additional Fee
Total	16 -	25 =	0	x \$25=	\$0	1 x \$50=	\$0
Independent	1 -	4 =	0	x \$100=	\$0	3 x \$200=	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claims				x \$180=	0	x \$360=	0
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE							\$0

03/08/2005 HVUONG1 0000007 09970580

01 FC:1801

790.00 CP

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0280. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for the presentation of extra Claims.  
 Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

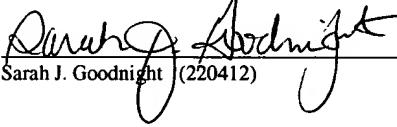
  
Robert W. Diehl, Reg. No. 35,118  
Wallenstein Wagner & Rockey, Ltd.  
311 South Wacker Drive, 53<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6630  
312.554.3300  
Attorneys for Applicants

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Express Mail Label No. EV622880617US

Date of Deposit: March 4, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Sarah J. Goodnight (220412)